

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 USIE-00

TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 OIC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /069 W

----- 114208

O R 190525Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9359

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ANZUS, OVIP (ROWLING, WALLACE E.) NZ

SUBJECT: PM ROWLING NOT ATTENDING ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING

REF: WELLINGTON 690

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIMW MINISTER ROWLING WILL DEFINITELY NOT
ATTEND FORTHCOMING ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, BUT
NEW ZEALAND WILL BE REPRESENTED BY A CABINET MINISTER.
ROWLING WOULD STILL LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON WASHINGTON ON MAY 7-8,

IF HE CAN SEE PRESIDENT FORD. END SUMMARY.

1. MFA SECRETARY FRANK CONRNER HAS JUST CONFIRMED TO THE
AMBASSADOR THAT PRIME MINISTER ROWLING WILL NOT RPT NOT BE
ABLE TO ATTEND ANZUS COUNCIL MEETING IN WASHINGTON AS HERE-
TO FORE PLANNED. INSTEAD, NEW ZEALAND WILL BE REPRESENTED
BY MINISTER OF LABOUR FAULKNER, MINISTER OF DEFENCE FRASER,
OR MINISTER OF OVERSEAS TRADE WALDING, WITH FAULKNER THE
MOST LIKELY PROSPECT AT MOMENT.

2. GNZ IS ACUTELY EMBARRASSED BY MIXUP IN PM'S SCHEDULE,
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AND DECISION THAT ROWLING CANNOT BE AT MEETING WAS TAKEN

WITH EXTREME RELUCTANCE. HOWEVER, AS FINANCE MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TIZARD WILL BE AT AZIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK MEETING IN MANILA AT SAME TIME AS ANZUS COUCIL MEETING, ROWLING FEELS HE MUST REMAIN IN NEW ZEAANDUNTIL TIZARD RETURNS. OTHERWISE, LEADER OF OPPOSITION MULDOON MIGHT PLAUSIBLY CHARGE IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH WILL BE IN SESSION AT THE TIME, THAT ROWLING GOVERNMENT WAS NEGLECTING NEW ZEALAND'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH THE TWO TOP LEADERS TOURING THE WORLD AT THE SAME TIME.

3. FOREIGN SECRETARY CORNER WAS AT PAINS TO STRESS THAT ROWLING HOPES UNITED STATES AND ANZUS WILL FEEL NO SLIGHT OVER PM'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETING. ROWLING INTENDS TO GO TO COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN JAMICA AT END OF APRIL. AFTER THAT MEETING PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR ABOUT 24 HOURS FROM AFTERNOON MAY 7 TO AFTERNOON MAY 8, PROVIDED HE CAN PAY COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. ROWLING RECOGNIZES THAT THIS ALLOWS VERY LITTLE TIME TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH OF SUBSTANCE IN WASHINGTON AND WILL NOT FEEL PUT OFF IF SUCH MEETINGS CANNOT BE ARRANGED. HOWEVER, CORNER MADE IT CLEAR THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL IF OPPORTUNITIES TO CALL ON PRESIDENT AND DR. KISSINGER WOULD BE POSSIBLE. MFA IS TODAY CABLING AMBASSADOR WHITE THAT ROWLING WOULD LIKE TO PAY ONE-DAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONCERT WITH WHITE ON ARRANGEMENTS THAT MAY BE WORKED OUT.

4. COMMENT: WITH FULL APPRECIATION OF CONSTRAINTS ON PRESIDENT'S TIME, EMBASSY URGES THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRANGE CALLS THAT ROWLING WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE TO HAVE. ALTHOUGH FAILURE OF PM TO ATTEND ANZUS MEETING AS SCHEDULED RESULTS EXCLUSIVELY FROM SLOPPY STAFVF WORK ON PART OF GNZ, A NUMBER OF ISSUES, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING NPW VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND AND NORTHERN MARIANAS QUESTION, WILL BE COMING TO A HEAD THIS YEAR WHEN LEFT WINGERS OF ROWLING'S OWN LABOUR PARTY WILL BE FIGHTING TO CRIPPLE NEW ZEALAND COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES. A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD, EVEN A SHORT COURTESY CALL, WILL STRENGTHEN THE MODERATE ROWLING'S HAND IN HIS BATTLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE RADICAL LEFT OF HIS OWN PARTY, AND ENHANCE OUR CHANCES OF GETTING WHAT WE WANT FROM GNZ. END COMMENT.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AN EARLY INDICATION OF POSSIBILITIES OF ARRANGING CALLS IN WASHINGTON. SELDEN

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